

By **STUART EARP** Wycombe Wanderers 3, Loughborough College 0

TWO GOALS from Howard Kennedy, one from the penalty spot, and another by John Priestley gave Wycombe Wanderers victory in an entertaining friendly at Loakes Park against Loughborough College on Tuesday.

The students came to Wycombe with only two defeats in 12 games and it wasn't difficult to see why. In Rees Jones, who has played for F.A. Trophy holders Scarborough, they had an outstanding goalkeeper while centre forward Steve Long looked to have a fine future in front of him.

It was Jones' faultless handling, especially in the second half, that prevented a heavier defeat for

Loughborough although the whole team worked and ran hard for the 90 minutes.

Wanderers had their problems at first against a tight marking side but they took an early lead from Kennedy after five minutes. Priestley, who had a useful game in mid-field, broke through on the right and was accelerating into the box when brought down by Graham Heymen. Kennedy, who missed his

last penalty attempt a fortnight ago, made no mistake with this one.

Loughborough's hard graft cancelled out many Wycombe attacks in the first half while at the back Richard Strong gave another promising display. His strength in the air did much to snuff out the threat of Long and Graham Dawtry.

POOR CONTROL

Priestley and Farouk Quraishi played some nice balls through the students' defence but the front runners lacked control, especially Dylan Evans, who was totally out of sorts. Tony Horseman, on the other hand, always used the ball intelligently and it was 'Bodger' who eventually laid on both second half goals.

John Maskell had a busier second half and had to be alert to gather Brian Griffiths' long range effort after 55 minutes. But it was Jones who began to catch the eye at the other end. His left-foot goalkicks travelled as far as Maskell's at times — no mean achievement — and his fielding of the ball on both high and low crosses was excellent. Twice he came out to gather dangerous crosses, diving to take the ball as it bounced.

The Blues made it 2-0 in the 74th minute. Harris's first cross was blocked but he found Horseman with his second effort. He slipped the ball to Priestley who took a couple of steps before placing a shot past Jones.

Wanderers became rather casual in the last quarter and one back flick from Kennedy almost gifted a goal for Loughborough. He made amends, however, with a skilful piece of work in the 87th minute when taking down Horseman's fine cross and firing home past Jones to complete the victory.

WYCOMBE: J. Maskell; R. Davies, R. Strong, K. Mead, S. Vase; H. Kennedy, J. Priestley, F. Quraishi; A. Horseman, D. Harris, D. Evans. No subs.

LOUGHBOROUGH: R. Jones; F. Ennals, W. Carpenter, R. Elsey, G. Heymen; M. Batson, B. Griffiths, K. Batley; D. Ross, S. Long, G. Dawtry. Sub. T. Tindale (not used).

Referee: R. Perry (High Wycombe).

Half-time: 1-0. **Goalscorers:** Kennedy 2 (5 pen, 87), Priestley (74).

MICK BACK FOR BLUES?

MICK HOLIFIELD, who just missed last week's crucial F.A. Cup tie at Minehead, should return for Wycombe Wanderers tomorrow (Saturday) when they entertain local rivals Slough Town at Loakes Park in the Isthmian League.

Holifield could have played last week but it would have been a major risk and further injury might have kept him out for a long period.

Manager John Reardon is worried about his forwards, who haven't scored since Wycombe beat Milton Keynes on November 15. All the goals have come from midfield or defence since that game. Holifield's return will add some much needed punch to the front line but the lack of goals from Dylan Evans and Derek Harris is disturbing.

Slough, who have been Wanderers' 'bogey' team for several years, always seem to raise their game for this local derby and until they lost at Enfield on Tuesday night they had gone six games without defeat. This run followed one of the worst starts in the club's history when they failed to register a victory in their first nine league games.

Injuries played a key part in the slump with every single player in the squad being out of action at some stage of the season. More recently, the Rebels have been able to field a more settled side but tomorrow they will be without former Spurs defender Phil

Beal who is out of the country at the moment.

Former Wycombe favourite Terry Reardon, brother of John, Blues manager, is filling the gap at centre back while new players this season include full back Roger Mackay and two Wimbledon players Barry Friend and Ian Cooke. Reardon, incidentally, is the Slough skipper.

Enfield's 2-0 victory over Slough puts them a massive 11 points clear at the top of the table, although Wanderers have a game in hand.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION (up to and inc. 29/11/77)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Enfield	23	18	4	1	54	15	58
Wycombe	22	15	2	5	40	21	47
Hitchin	23	13	5	5	40	25	44
Leatherhead	22	12	6	4	43	20	42
Tooting	23	12	6	5	35	24	42
Dagenham	25	12	4	9	45	37	40
Croydon	22	11	3	8	35	30	36
Hayes	23	10	5	8	28	27	35
Hendon	25	10	5	10	33	33	35
Staines	23	9	7	7	28	32	34
Sutton	22	9	5	8	25	31	32
Carshalton	22	8	6	8	37	33	30
Barking	21	8	2	11	33	34	26
W'hamstow	19	7	5	7	26	28	26
Boreham	17	7	3	7	23	28	24
Slough	22	7	3	12	29	39	24
Woking	20	6	1	13	30	38	19
L'stone	23	3	9	11	26	40	18
Southall	21	4	6	11	20	38	18
K'stonian	22	4	5	13	21	34	17
Tilbury	19	3	6	10	25	36	15
Stortford	23	1	6	16	21	54	9